



Bent, Bowed and Straightened

Luke 13: 10-13

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Doll with bendable hips (i.e. Barbie, action figure)
- ✓ Prepared apple to be used for "God looks on the heart" Illustration
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview Sheet



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Objective of Lesson

In the Bible, when our Lord Jesus Christ healed the ailments of men's bodies, He was showing that He has power to cure the horrible, sick state of our souls.

Scripture Reference

Luke 13:10-13 (King James Version) 10And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. 12And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. 13And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Lesson Instructions

1. In the Bible there are many stories of people who were crippled, sick, or terminally ill, whom the Lord Jesus Christ healed. This story is about one such woman.
2. On this day our Lord Jesus was teaching in a local synagogue. Do you know what a synagogue is? It is a word that means, "House of Assembly." It is a place where men and women would go to pray, study, or worship. It was a place like our church building. People come here to pray and learn of God.

On this day our Lord Jesus was teaching, and many people had come to hear what He had to say and to learn from Him.

3. On the Sabbath day (what we call Sunday), the Lord Jesus could always be found in the synagogue, or in the temple teaching. He was in His element in the house of God, and He was most happy when He was declaring to men the things of God.
4. On this day there was a woman who came to the synagogue, who had a horrible and painful condition for many long years. She had it so long it caused her to be bowed together - completely bent over and she could not stand up straight. This woman, because of her physical deformity of being bent over, would have been one of short stature. She was likely dwarfed to half her original height. She wasn't just bent over a little bit, but was bent ALL the way over - all the way. She would have been lost standing in a crowd. You would not have been able to see her. Her condition was unnoticed by many, because many could not see her. You see a person so bent down like she was might come in and go out and not ever be noticed by anyone that was standing in the meeting place. (Use the doll demonstration to help the children visualize).
5. Here in our story we find a woman with a physical condition that describes our spiritual condition, before God granted us mercy. Her outward appearance, being bent and bowed, is recorded to teach us how we look spiritually before God. Are we all bent over physically like this woman? No, but this is exactly what our heart (our spirit) looks like before God. Our spirits are crooked and bent, and our hearts are desperately wicked and deceitful above all things, and are always bent towards satisfying ourselves and not God.
6. Can we see the bent and horrible illness of our spirit? No. I look at you and you look at me and we don't see anything wrong, do we? Like this poor woman in our story, our condition can go unnoticed for years. A lot of times it is not even noticed ourselves, but God looks on the heart. What this woman looked

like is what our souls and hearts look like to God. This is why we need help. We can't fix it. Just like the story tells us, this woman wanted to stand up straight but she couldn't. This is a picture of how we want to do as God says, and we want to straighten up and do good things toward God, but we can't. Our souls and hearts are sick and bent and bowed and our true condition is unnoticed by others, and ourselves, unless God reveals it. (Use the Apple: God looks on the Heart Demonstration)

7. There is only one way we can be healed and this story tells us how...It says "and when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman thou art loosed from thine infirmity. 13 and he laid his hands on her; and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God." That is a miracle!!!
8. How did this woman become healed? What happened first? Did she see Christ first or did Christ see her first? It says Christ saw her first. Why is this important? We are just like this woman, because we are bowed and bent over. We can't see what is above or beside us even if we wanted to; but we don't have to, because our Lord can see us. He knows our spiritual condition.
9. What happened next? Did the woman call to Jesus or did Jesus call her to Him? Jesus called her to Him. Why is this important? If our Lord Jesus had not called her over she would have never come to Him. Remember she did not see him. He saw her and that is how He made his presence known to her - by calling her. He does the same thing with all His bent and bowed, helpless and sinful people. He calls them to make His presence known.
10. What happened next? Jesus Christ spoke to her and laid His hands on her and healed her. Who did what here? Did the woman do anything to heal herself? No, our Lord did EVERYTHING. Jesus Christ did something for this woman she could not do for herself. She could not see Him, but He could see her. She could not call to Him but He could call her. She did not have the power to heal herself, but He had the power to make her whole again. He spoke to her in power and with His own hands lifted her up out of her sick and bent and bowed state.

11. This is a picture of how Christ sees us, calls to us, speaks to us, and heals us. This is how all His people are made straight from their bent and bowed illness of sin. It has nothing to do with us and everything to do with what Jesus Christ did for us. It is mercy and a gift from Him. If the Lord Jesus has shown you your bent and bowed state of sin and rebellion, then He has seen you and called you. When you come to Him, He will finish the work He has started. He can and will make you straight. That makes our Lord Jesus a powerful and merciful friend. Bent and Bowed sinners don't have any better friend than Christ Jesus, our Great Physician. He is a friend like no other to sinners.

Lesson Activities

- Recommended Reading:
http://www.donfortner.com/bible_class_lessons/luke/luk%20087%2013v10-17%20Cured%20at%20Last.htm and attached PDF by David Eddmenson by the same title.
- Doll Demonstration: You can use a Barbie or other small plastic doll with hips that bend. Use this doll to demonstrate what you are saying in points.
- Apple: God looks on the Heart Demonstration: the night before take an apple, and make sure it is nice and shiny and blemish free. On one side of the apple cut a jagged hole and let the apple sit out all night so it turns brown and oxidizes. When you use this demonstration show the children the side of the apple that is shiny and perfect and point out to them that what they can't see is the corrupt inside. Then turn the apple around to demonstrate that corruptness is what God sees when He looks on the inside of our heart. When we cut that apple open and the inside is exposed to air it becomes brown and ugly. That is exactly what happens when God reveals our true nature. We look all pretty on the outside, but



when God exposes what we have on the inside, it becomes very brown and corrupt and ugly.

- Coloring Sheet



Take Home Lesson Overview

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Lesson Overview:

Here in our story we find a woman with a physical condition that very well describes our spiritual condition before God granted us mercy. Her outward appearance, being bent and bowed, is recorded to teach us how we look spiritually before God. Are we all bent over physically like this woman? No, but this is exactly what our heart (our spirit) looks like before God. Our spirits are crooked and bent and our hearts are desperately wicked and deceitful above all things and are always bent towards satisfying ourselves and not God. This verse is a picture of how



Christ sees us, calls to us, speaks to us and heals us. This is how all His people are made straight from their bent and bowed illness of sin. It has nothing to do with us and everything to do with what Jesus Christ did for us. It is His mercy and a gift. If the Lord Jesus has shown you your bent and bowed state of sin and rebellion, He has seen you and called you and when you come to Him, He will finish the work He has started. He can and will make you straight. That makes our Lord Jesus a powerful and merciful friend. Bent and Bowed sinners don't have any better friend than Christ Jesus, our Great Physician. He is a friend like no other to sinners.

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Coloring Sheet***

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LUKE 13:10-13 ¶ AND HE WAS TEACHING IN ONE OF THE SYNAGOGUES ON THE SABBATH. 11 AND, BEHOLD, THERE WAS A WOMAN WHICH HAD A SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND WAS BOWED TOGETHER, AND COULD IN NO WISE LIFT UP HERSELF. 12 AND WHEN JESUS SAW HER, HE CALLED HER TO HIM, AND SAID UNTO HER, WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED FROM THINE INFIRMITY. 13 AND HE LAID HIS HANDS ON HER: AND IMMEDIATELY SHE WAS MADE STRAIGHT, AND GLORIFIED GOD.

What an amazing story in just three verses of scripture. Oftentimes, and I've said this, in the gospel narratives; in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the physical infirmities that our Lord healed in certain individuals have a direct connection to our spiritual infirmities. I recently mentioned in an article for the bulletin, and I believe I mentioned in also in a recent message, that I see my spiritual condition and the physical conditions of those that the Lord Jesus healed in the gospel narratives. For example I see myself clearly in blind Bartimaeus, the beggar who begged by the wayside. I can see my spiritual condition there - a blind beggar. And I can see myself in that certain lame impotent man that lay at the pool of Bethesda and the Lord inquired of him and he said there was a superstition that an angel came down and moved the water and the first one to get in that water would be healed. He said I have no man to put me in the water. This man was lame. I see myself there and I am lame before God almighty spiritually. I can't work,.. I can't to anything that would merit God's favor. I can even go as far to say that I'm that dead man that Christ raised at the city gate of nane. Whose mother there, lost her only son she had. (She)had already had the services and they were on their way to the grave site. Can you picture it in your mind's eye? - and the Lord Jesus touched the casket and the young man arose. That is me - dead in trespasses and sins. I am that man that the Lord healed that was full of leprosy. I am full of sin. I am that man with the withered hand who can do nothing for himself. I am that woman with the issue of blood and we all have that disease - it is called sin. I'm that dead and dumb man that threw himself into the fire and deep waters. I am that possessed man that lived among the tombs. Can you see yourself? Can you see yourself spiritually in those? I know that those of you that know Christ can.

And this morning, again, we find a woman with a physical condition that very well describes our spiritual condition before God granted us mercy. Her outward appearance of bent and bowed over in her physical body clearly represents my crooked bent and carnal mind of enmity. Her posture defines a clear picture, I believe, of my crooked heart which is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things and it's always bent towards satisfying MY body of flesh and doing things my way.

Just imagine for a min if today we could truly see each other physically as we are spiritually before God without Christ. If we could see the inward as well as the outward we would most definatly see some deplorable horrific things this day. We would see a whole church of dead people. Sitting and looking with glassy eyes of death. Oh there would be a stench, a smell that none of us could tolerate

or stomach. Why even those who have Christ are said to be of little faith and the sight of them wouldn't be altogether lovely. I can assure you of that, here you would see a blind man and there one maimed. And over there we would see another one twisted with some deformity. There's one in the back that has full leprosy. There's another up front with oozing putrefying sores that haven't been closed up or medicated with ointment. If we could see inwardly what we see outwardly.

You see spiritual deformity is like physical deformity, it assumes many forms and shapes and looks. And each one is painful to look on. I won't try to sketch or draw any further any detail to the spiritually halt, lame, blind and impotent folk who are assembled this morning. They are like that all that multitude that lay at the pool of Bethesda. Sorry and in bad shape. Hard to look upon. And surely if our flesh dear friend is shaped like our souls, without Christ, this church building this morning would be better turned into a hospital for the most incurable diseases. I am going to tell you something, we would not normally want to flee from the one that is sitting next to us, or behind us, or in front of us, but we would wish to run from ourselves.

Like this poor woman. In our story, our condition goes unnoticed for years. Men would say things to me like "David? You're a good man". That use to just crawl all over me knowing what I am before God almighty and I know what they meant. They meant it as a compliment; they meant "You seem to be a moral man. You see to be a man of value and integrity." But my condition, my true condition was unnoticed by others.

This woman because of her physical deformity of being bent over, she would have been one of short stature. She was likely dwarfed to half her original height. I can see her now... she wasn't just like this (...) she was bent ALL the way over – all the way. She would have been lost standing in a crowd. You would not have been able to see her. Her condition was unnoticed by many because many could not see her? You see a person so bent down like she was might have come in and gone out and not have been noticed by anyone that was standing in the meeting place.

LUKE: 13: 11 AND, BEHOLD, THERE WAS A WOMAN WHICH HAD A SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND WAS BOWED TOGETHER, AND COULD IN NO WISE LIFT UP HERSELF.

Verse 11 tells us behold there was this a woman which has this spirit of infirmity for 18 YEARS!. That might not seem like a long time but 18 years with a horrible affliction like this, I would think, would seem like an eternity. Bowed over - I was thinking about that yesterday - For over 30 years, I lived in a sad deformed spiritual state of affliction. And the sad part is I really didn't even know it. What if I had died? My! I would have been lost, condemned forever in hell. The redeemed in Christ - They now stand perfect before a thrice holy God. A child of God cannot get over that fact. When God has shown them who and what they are and that in Christ they now stand holy...BUT... until he comes for me with a glorified sinless body, I am still showing the signs of the horrible affliction of sin. What signs? What do you mean? – for one I don't see too clearly – I see though a glass darkly and dimly. I don't see real good spiritually. I don't hear really well. I hear the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and usually before I can write it down I have forgotten it. I don't hear well and my mind is not right. I don't walk right. I don't walk like I should walk. I should be walking straight and I am all over the place. I often lose my appetite for good healthy food. Does that at all describe you? I forget as I said quite often. And one thing I forget that I should never forget is that I

forget my great physician...The one who healed me. Day in and day out, I have to remind myself every single day, what he has done for me. My great physician, the one who healed me.

LUKE13:11 AND, BEHOLD, THERE WAS A WOMAN WHICH HAD A SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND WAS BOWED TOGETHER, AND COULD IN NO WISE LIFT UP HERSELF.

Look at the last part of verse 11. Speaking of this woman: it says she was bowed together and could in no wise lift up herself. Now I am sure she had once been young, active, a beautiful young lady, full of life and vigor, but gradually over the years, creped over her an infirmity that dragged her down. And she was bent and bowed more and more toward herself and toward the earth as the years passed on. Again, what a picture that is of fallen men and women. We are so crooked and bent that we can only look down and within – (Many) look within for salvation, by works of their own so-called righteousness. They look within, full of pride. They look to themselves as gods of their own imaginations and sinful man can in no wise lift him or herself up. Now that describes me... and the sad part is that I would not even if I could! Unless God divinely intervenes we will be bowed only looking to sin and self. This woman hadn't seen the sun for over 18 years. She had not been able to rise up and look at the SUN in 18 years. There are some of you that have not seen the SON in all your years here on earth. Do you know why? You are bowed over and you can only look to yourself and to yourself – to the ground – down. The only way she would ever be able to see the SUN is the same way that you and eye are ever able to see the SON and that is by divine sovereign intervention from God almighty. That is the only way. The plain truth of both the physical and the spiritual afflicted is – they can in no wise lift themselves up. If this woman could have – she would have. I can assure you of that. Can you imagine having to walk live, everything you did – you did in a bent over position – and yet spiritually that is you and I! We can't lift ourselves up. We are all bent over as though we were searching for a grave. I just imagine this woman often must have felt that that would have been the best thing for her don't you? 18 years! BUT...

Don't you love the But's of scripture? Hope is not lost! No! Hope is not lost – Christ can lift up those that are bowed over and He can perform the miracle! Look at the next five glorious words in verse 12

And when Jesus saw her – OHHHHH! There is some hope! She was the very one He was seeking! We are not her to think that he saw her in the same common way that we see each other this morning. No – When He saw her it was a look of love, mercy, sovereign love, sovereign grace and sovereign mercy. He read every line of her character he knew all her history, every thought of her heart, every desire of her soul, he knew. Nobody had to tell Him she had been bound this way for 18 years. He knew all about it. He knows how she came to be bound, what she had suffered during that time and he knew she had prayed. She had prayed for healing and yet this infirmity still pressed upon her. He knew all these things – When we see each other we put on a smile, we put on our best behavior. Often time we are hurting and the other person does not know it but a glance from the Lord Jesus Christ – He read her history and understood her case and He actually knew it before the foundation of the world. He saw her and what meaning of grace and mercy there is in a searching glance from Him. What a blessed phrase that is to the helpless. Have you ever been helpless? Oh what a blessed day when Christ saw me! Do you remember when Christ saw you? It was a blessed day wasn't it? God showed me and gave me to my Lord before the foundation of the world and he saw me but then

again in the fullness of time – the time of appointed love – Christ the God-Man again saw me and he knew me!

When Christ sees a woman or a man in their desperate condition and He desires to show mercy...let me tell you something...HE WILL SHOW MERCY. He does anything and everything that pleases Him. None can thwart His purpose none can say “what are you doing?” none can stay His hand and He plainly declares from this book “ I WILL have mercy on whom I will have mercy” “I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion and whom I will I will hardens.” He heard Bartimaeus cry – We will call those divine ears that day - I am sure He heard the cry of this begging, blind beggar - I am sure there was a word in specific that caught his ear – MERCY. Have mercy on me! And the scriptures say that the sun stood still and He said bring him unto Me. That poor leper, can you see him making his way through the crowd and his eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ and he said “Lord if you will, thou can make me clean”. And the Lord Jesus put forth his hand – I love this story – and he touched him and he said “I will. Be thou clean” and IMMEDIATELY the leprously departed from him.

Our Lord said in another place I will have mercy and not sacrifice. He said I’m not come to save the righteous. I’m come to call the sinner to repentance. Are you a sinner? Then this message is for you. God has not come for sacrifice of works. The gospel is not about what you can do for God? It’s always been about what God does for sinners. Sacrifice from you is of no value to God - there is only one thing of value to God. The blood of His dear son. What do you think of Christ? What do you think of Him?

On this day, this day in our story, I can’t find anywhere here that this woman made a sound. Our text simply says “and when Jesus saw her..”

You remember the story in Luke 19 of Zacchaeus– here’s this man of small stature and the scripture says chief among the publicans - he was very rich – he was a rich man and he sought to see the Lord Jesus and who he was and because of the crowd he could not get near Him because he was so small. He ran and he climbed up in that sycamore tree to see HIM – the scripture says. For He was to pass by that way – that was the chosen route that day but it says when Jesus came to the place – what? He looked up and saw him. It does not say that Zacchaeus was saying “Hey Jesus here I am up in this tree. See? I am Zacchaeus! I am somebody” – NO. It says Jesus stopped looked up and SAW him and He said to him – “Zacchaeus you make hast and come down for today I MUST abide at your house”. Zacchaeus did not say a word before Christ saw him but I tell you what...he said plenty after he did. You know what he said? He said “ Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation I am going to give it back to him four times more. He must abide with Zacchaeus for all that the Father gave him dear sinner he would loose nothing. HE MUST!

He must needs go through Samaria. We have look at that many times. Why? There were elect children of God there! Therefor he must go. He is the only means of salvation He is the only one who can save and so we see another blessed true there. When our Lord saw this poor woman in our text it says and when Jesus saw here.. What? He called her to Him. (Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called – Rom 8:30) – and whom he called them he also justified. And whom he justified them he also glorified what shall we say them to these things? Only one this to say. If God be for us who can be against us.

If Christ calls you dear sinner by sovereign grace it is because He predestined you before the foundation of the world. He set His affection on you in love. And God the Father gave you to him and he said "I'm going to redeem that sinner" I must needs go through New Caney, TX - I must need go through Ashland, KY. I must need go through KY, TN - wherever - I must need go. If he calls you you can count of the fact that he predestinated you and you can count of the fact that He is going to Justify you because that is what he says in His word. Who He predestinated them he also called and he called for this woman and he said bring her to me.

You know what he did? He healed her. Verse 12 - "Woman thou art loosed from thy infirmities" - and when that woman came to her "Your loosed!" you have been bound for 18 long years you are loosed now! She was still bent over as she was before. What our Lord means when he says this is "the curse of satan was taken off of her and that the power which had made her bow over for 18 long years was broken. I know this woman believed it in her inner most soul even as Christ said it. - Even at that very moment she was not at all different, in appearance from her former state - let me say this now - as some of you who are God's dear people - may God give you power to believe this morning that the end of your gloom has come. Oh that God might give you the power that the end of the years of infirmity are over and that your time of doubt has ended. I pray that God give you grace to know that this morning that when that sun rose first in the east that it was light that was ordained for you. This morning as I watched the sun come up, as I do most Sunday mornings - I knew that it was God who had once again sustained me for another day. That I might preach the gospel to you That I might publish peace and give you a message of hope a message from the Lord. Come forth ye prisoners. Lead ye captives for Christ comes to set you free today. Why do you tarry.

Verse 13 - and he laid his hands on her. Oh what a gentle touch and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. This woman suffered from a need of strength - by putting his hand upon her I believe that the Lord just poured his Life into her. You remember that woman with the issue of blood - if I could just touch the hem of his garment! And she did He said "who touched me? Virtue has left me. Power has left me. Life has left me. The warm stream of Gods power came into contact with her pain. She was bowed over and his power made her straight. At that moment she was eye to eye wit her Lord and Savior. 18 years since she was able to look one in the face and the first one that she sees is - just like the blind man whom He gave sight - was her deliver. Is that not the first person we saw when God opened our blind eyes - when the Lord straightened us up from our bent over condition. The deed of love is done and Christ has done it - I say to you that are yet lost - if you can just get away this morning from thinking about yourself. There is no salvation in yourself. There is no comfort to look within - that goes for those of you that are saved. There is not comfort and hope and encouragement to look within yourselves even after God saves you but especially before he does. Don't look down upon your cares. If His hands could be laid upon you dear friends those pierced hands that bought you - those mighty hands that rule heaven and earth on your behalf. Those blessed hands that plead for sinners not plead to sinners - plead for sinners - there is a difference. Those dear hands which will press you to his chest and breast forever. If you could feel these by thinking of him you would soon recover.

Immediately she was made straight. Matt 8:3 - That fella that was full of leprosy - it says and Immediately his leprosy was cleansed - those blind men that came to the Lord in Matt 20 - it says and immediately their eyes received sight and they followed Him. That J Iresse daughter and He came and took her by the hand and immediately the fever left her and she ministered unto him. That fella that they dropped through the ceiling - they could not get him in because of the crowd at the door - they got up on the ceiling and they cut a hole in the ceiling and dropped him down in

front of the Lord Jesus Christ and he said I have not ever see faith like that. What faith those friends of his had. Then it says when the Lord spoke healing to him Immediately he rose and he took up that bed. You see those that were lame had to carry a bed with them. Like Bartimaeus begging robe. Remember when he went to the Lord Jesus he tossed away that robe – he did not need it anymore. And this man took up his bed and threw it away and went forth among them all in so much that they were amazed and glorified God and saying we have never seen it on this fashion but he rose immediately. Deaf and dumb man his mouth was opened immediately and his tongue spoke and what did he do? He praised God!. That man got up off his bed and he gloried God. That man whose tongue was loosed. He was praising and glorifying God. That poor woman that came behind him and touched the hem of his garment it says immediately! Here issue of blood – GONE! Immediately. YOU see the result to Christ's healing had is always the same. First it is immediate.

Verse 13 – he laid his hands on her, immediately she was made stright and then what? She glorified God. All of God's people glorify Christ for the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. Friends there is no disease he cannot heal. There is no sin that he cannot forgiven. Well...There is one – That sin is unbelief. – He cannot and will not forgive you of unbelief in the Lord Jesus Christ – that is the only sin that will send you to Hell. You have never done anything too bad that you can't be forgiven for. But if you in rebellion say "I will not... I don't want any part of Him" that will send you to Hell. What do you think of God's Son? That is the most important question that I could ever ask you. Well...may God cause you to trust Him, believe Him and bow to Him.